Waiting list of telephone connections in Jammu and Kashmir

936. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for landline telephone connections in Jammu and Kashmir as on the 31st June, 2004, region-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to clear the mounting backlog of waiting list keeping in view Government's policy to provide telephone connection in every village?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for getting landline telephone connections in Jammu and Kashmir as on the 30th June, 2004 are as under:

Secondary Switching Area	Waiting List as on 30-06-2004
Srinagar	30478
Jammu	6045
Udhampur	1000
Rajouri	3493
Leh	718
TOTAL:	41734

(b) The following steps are taken by BSNL to clear the waiting list and provide telephone in every village:

(i) 62 K WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) equipment has been planned during 2004-05 to cater to scattered demand.

(ii) Cellular Mobile equipment of 50 K line capacity is planned during 2004-05.

(iii) 10,000 DELs have been planned on landline during 2004-05.

(iv) Additionally 644 Satellite based VPTs are planned to cover remote villages.